

cal line of medical education. Untiring energy, executive ability and impartiality are far more needed for the enforcement of the law than for the formulation of suitable questions and correcting the answers.

California has helped and is being watched by many states. When a year ago the A. M. A. sought a model medical act for the entire United States, Michigan, California and New York were accorded the preference, and the chairman of your committee had the honor of presenting his report last week in Chicago. Far better than individual efforts, the practical correlation of the various militant forces in the state society would prove a most potent factor in popularizing medical laws and thereby helping their execution. We cannot afford to be less energetic: We must not be less consistent. Every self-respecting member of this society should strive unceasingly to lift our colleges out of commercialism, and lift our board of examiners out of politics.

#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

By GEORGE H. EVANS, M. D.

The reports of the council and secretary of the work of the society during the year, leave very little that could properly come within the limits of a report by the president. It is needless for me to say to this body that the development of the society has for many years engaged my activities to a very great extent, and my term in the presidential chair has brought certain convictions relative to the necessity for organization work along certain lines, which I wish to submit to you, with recommendations.

The year which has past has witnessed a collective deflection from the membership of about seven per cent, and the causes militating to account for such loss should engage our serious attention. In a commonwealth where the number in the profession is steadily augmented year by year, where such a large proportion of the physicians are not enrolled on the membership list of the state society, and where membership is so vital to the very existence of every physician who seriously realizes the part he should fill in the medical body politic, this organization, were it properly fulfilling its functions, would necessarily steadily increase in membership. The problem becomes more acute when we contemplate the fact that in the two largest county societies, where one would naturally look for the evidence of most complete organization, the loss has been great. San Francisco has lost 72 members during the year, and Los Angeles 18. I am not unmindful of the fact that in San Francisco disturbed conditions following the disaster of 1906 have militated to disorganize our ranks to a certain extent; but I believe that the society must take some share of the responsibility, in not making its power felt more in the community. The disaster brought with it problems to be solved in which the organized profession should have led, but in which, I regret to say, it took no part. I refer in particular to matters pertaining to public health.

The constitution of component societies provides for the necessary machinery, but the fault lies with the perfunctory way in which committees are chosen, and the perfunctory manner in which they do their work. It affords me great pleasure and satisfaction to acknowledge the activity of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco County Medical Society in making its influence felt last year in the reorganization of the Board of Health of that city, at a time when a crisis seemed at hand. On the other hand, this demonstration of power only emphasizes the ability of the society to be the power in the community it should be, were its activities always properly directed. It is to be regretted that this activity was not displayed in the tenement house legislation, in the plague situation, and in more active support of the work of the local Board of Health.

It is the function of county societies to educate the laity on many of the large problems of state medicine, and to this end public meetings should be frequently held. If we are to be consistent exponents of preventive medicine, then we must instruct the layman on these matters of which he is so ignorant. The necessity of this was recognized by this body last year, and the president was empowered to appoint a committee on publicity, the function of which committee was to prepare material for publication in the lay press. This was a most important committee, and I regret that it has apparently been inactive.

The American Medical Association, recognizing the need of county societies becoming practical post-graduate schools, has prepared a course of instruction, which has been enthusiastically taken up in certain quarters. The county society will never fill the place planned for it in the comprehensive system of organization of the American Medical Association, until it becomes an active post-graduate institution, with an enrollment composed of every respectable physician in the community; and this should be the goal of every component society.

As a means to this end, I would recommend that the council should, during the coming year, actively take up the organization work in the different counties, as was done prior to 1906, and if the funds of the society permit, this house of delegates should empower the council to employ a paid organizer. This plan has been used successfully elsewhere, and it is my conviction that much good work would result from its adoption.

The component societies should be urged to take up the matter of public health legislation with their respective legislators, and with their local health boards. By means of public meetings the laity should be educated in the importance of such proposed legislation, and each society should have a committee on public health and legislation, which should be performing its duties in more than a merely perfunctory manner.

The work of the Pure Food commission, which has been most active during the year, should be put into permanent shape by the house of delegates. To

that end I would recommend that a permanent committee on public health be established, consisting of a central committee of five, with a representative from each county society. This composite body could well carry on the work in a comprehensive way, working in entire harmony and conjunction with the county society committees, but having much larger functions. It should meet not less than once in three months, and should arrange for regular meetings with the State Board of Health.

In conclusion I would call your attention to the great work being accomplished by the Council on Pharmacy of the American Medical Association in its crusade against the nostrum evil. The valuable assistance rendered by certain lay publications emphasizes the fact that the public is being aroused to the dangers of the great American fraud. In this connection it is with no small degree of pleasure and satisfaction that I remind you that this great movement had its inception in the institution of our own State Journal, and its development is largely the result of the indefatigable energy of the secretary of the society.

#### MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION, APRIL, 1908.

First session, Coronado, April 21, 1908, called to order at 8:30 p. m., by the President, Dr. George H. Evans.

Roll call by the Secretary showed 45 delegates present.

The President's address to the House of Delegates was then read, and on motion of Parkinson, seconded by Osborne and duly carried, it was referred to a reference or business committee to consider all recommendations. The President appointed as such committee Drs. Parkinson, Wakefield and Richardson.

The report of the Secretary was then read and referred to the same committee.

Report of the Council was read and referred to the same committee.

Report of the editor was made verbally, following which the following resolution was introduced by Parkinson and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it be the sense of this Society, that the work being done through the Council and by the JOURNAL is in the best interests of medical organization, of the medical profession and of the general public, and that this work should be continued when and where possible with due regard to the condition of the treasury.

Report of the Committee on Scientific Work was presented verbally by the Chairman, Dr. Fischer.

Report of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation was presented verbally by the Chairman, Dr. Carpenter.

Report of the Committee on Arrangements was presented verbally by the Chairman, Dr. Burnham, and on motion of Fowler, seconded by Parkinson, it was adopted and a vote of thanks extended to the committee.

Report of the Tuberculosis Committee, presented at the first scientific session, was referred to the business committee without discussion, as was also the report of the Pure Food Committee and that of the Committee on Medical Education.

Amendment to the Constitution, Article VI, Section 1, proposed last year and since published twice in the JOURNAL, was then adopted, amending "five members of the Board of Medical Examiners

and three Alternates" to read: **Examiners or nominees for appointment as Examiners on the Board of Medical Examiners as may be required by the laws of the State of California governing the practice of medicine.**

Huntington presented two Congressional bills relating to the U. S. P. H. & M. H. S., together with the following resolutions, which, after some discussion by Parkinson, Huntington, Osborne, Regensburger and Jones, were adopted, and it was then moved by Simpson, seconded by Huntington and carried, that the Secretary be instructed to telegraph Dr. N. K. Foster at Washington, D. C., to the effect that the Society had endorsed the bills.

Whereas, There have been introduced into Congress two bills (H. R. 18792, H. R. 18794) of the utmost importance to the public health of the entire United States, and,

Whereas, It is believed that the passage of these measures is essential to the uniform control and eradication of epidemic diseases in the United States,

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Medical Society of the State of California urges upon the California Senators and members of the House of Representatives the immediate enactment of these laws, and,

Be It Further Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that copies be forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, the members of the California delegation in the Congress, the members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and the Secretary of the American Medical Association.

Whereas, There have been introduced into Congress two bills (H. R. 18792, H. R. 18794) of the utmost importance to the public health of the entire United States, and,

Whereas, It is believed that the passage of these measures is essential to the uniform control and eradication of epidemic diseases in the United States,

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Medical Society of the State of California urges upon the California Senators and members of the House of Representatives the immediate enactment of these laws, and,

Be It Further Resolved, That the California delegates to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association be instructed to present this resolution to that body and to request the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association to pass similar resolutions.

H. R. 18792—A bill to further protect the public health, and imposing additional duties upon the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That, in addition to the laboratory investigations now authorized by law of infectious diseases, the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall from time to time make special investigations into the prevalence of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, rabies, and other diseases affecting man, the conditions influencing their propagation and spread, and methods necessary for their prevention and suppression. These investigations shall include housing, occupation, and disposal of wastes, as they affect the public health. The investigation of rabies shall include the preparation and use of the virus or other substance made in the Hygienic Laboratory for its prevention in those exposed. He is further authorized, on request of the health authorities of a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, to detail officers to co-operate with